

**In the claims:**

Claims 1-45 (canceled)

Claim 46 (previously presented) A tree climbing apparatus comprising:

- a) a first platform adapted to engage the tree trunk while the user is standing thereon, and movable along the tree trunk while the user is not standing thereon, the first platform having a first flexible strap removably attachable thereto, the first flexible strap having a non-scratching surface that does not scratch the tree trunk while in use;
- b) a second platform adapted to engage the tree trunk while the user is sitting thereon, and movable along the tree trunk while the user is not sitting thereon, the second platform having a second flexible strap removably attachable thereto, the second flexible strap having a non-scratching surface that does not scratch the tree trunk while in use;
- c) wherein the platforms further comprise a pair of support arms adapted to releasably engage each end of the respective flexible straps; and
- d) wherein the support arms have a plurality of apertures and the flexible straps have a spring clip at each end engaging a selected one of the plurality of apertures, thereby being adjustable for varying tree trunk diameters.

Claim 47. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the apparatus is adapted so that the user sits facing the tree while sitting on the second platform.

Claim 48. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the first flexible strap and the second flexible strap are adjustable to accommodate tree trunks with varying diameter.

Claim 49. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the surface of the flexible straps are made of a resilient material.

Claim 50. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the first platform further comprises a pair of boot straps attached thereto.

Claim 51. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the second platform further comprises a padded back rest and a padded seat.

Claim 52. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the second platform further comprises a padded shelf upon which the user sits while ascending the tree.

Claim 53. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising a cam strap attached to the second platform, the cam strap being adjustable to securely hold the second platform against the tree trunk.

Claim 54. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising backpacking straps attached to one of the first platform and second platform to allow the user to carry the apparatus on his back.